

Hiking

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service
Lincoln National Forest
Sacramento Ranger District



Trestle Recreation Area

Attractions

Located immediately west of the Village of Cloudcroft, NM, the Trestle Recreation Area provides day-use picnic, hiking, biking, and motorized experience. The main facility is a replica (see below) of the old Cloudcroft train depot with water and restrooms available. Interpretive signs are scattered through the site and trails to bring back a time when steam engines travelled the area.



Use

The area is open Spring, Summer and Fall from 9am until Sunset. Use in the area is generally moderate to heavy. Motorized use for vehicles <50" in width is permitted on two trails with most of the use being non-motorized for hikers or bikers.

Access

The entrance road (FR24M) begins on US82 just west of Cloudcroft. It is a gated road and open for use daily. There is a trailhead for motorized use (T5003 and T5002) at the junction of US82 and NM130.

Partnering with NM Rails to Trails

These trails were developed and maintained through a unique public and private partnership between the NM Rails-to-Trails Association (NMRTA) and the US Forest Service. NMRTA is a private, non-profit organization composed of volunteers who convert abandoned railroads into trails for public enjoyment.

Trails

There are 6 trails within the Trestle Recreation Complex ranging from an 1/4 mile accessible trail to an 8 mile loop. T5001 ends at the southern vista (viewing area) of the Mexican Canyon Trestle which is visible from US82. Trails average an elevation of about 8,000' which can make hiking difficult.

As always, let someone know before you go.

History

The railroad arrived in Cloudcroft in 1899 and stayed in operation until WWII being finally dismantled in 1947. The Mexican Canyon Trestle is the largest trestle constructed and still stands today.

The Cloud-climbing Trestle Trail (T5001) was originally the path of the Cloud-climbing Railroad. The Old Cloudcroft Highway (T5002) and a few new connections make up the remaining system of trails.



View from the southern viewing area of the Mexican Canyon Trestle

Please call or visit the Sacramento Ranger District in Cloudcroft at (575) 682-2551 for more information.

Trestle Area Trails: Vicinity Map



Trailhead	NAD83 Coordinate	
	Latitude	Longitude
T5001B	32.957367	-105.749745
T5001D	32.956944	-105.749587
T5001A East	32.957727	-105.746012
T5001A West	32.957450	-105.748141

Trail Name	Trail #	Length (mi)					
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Cloud-Climbing Trestle	T5001	1.2	✓	X	✓	X	X
Village Spur	T5001A	0.3	✓	X	✓	X	X
Overlook	T5001B	0.2	✓	X	✓	X	X
Crossover	T5001C	0.3	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Old Cloudcroft Highway	T5002	2.5	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Accessible Trail	T5001D	0.2	✓	X	X	X	X